

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Department of Health



Office of the Director

March 29, 2012

**Director's Decision to Adopt or Reject the Panel's Final Proposed Selection of the
Medical Marijuana Cultivation Center Applications**

Based upon the legislation passed in 2010, the Selection Process for Medical Marijuana Cultivation Centers is described in 22 DCMR C § 5402. In compliance with these regulations a six (6) member panel was convened consisting of one (1) representative from each of the following to score each application:

- The Department of Health (DOH)
- The District Department of the Environment (DDOE)
- The Office of the Attorney General (OAG)
- The Department of Real Estate Services Protective Services Division (PSD)*
- The Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA)
- and a representative of the general public (or patient advocate), selected by the Director

The representatives from each of these departments were selected for their expertise and understanding of specific criteria defined in the regulations. The panel provided the Director of the Department of Health with a report of the scores and consensus comments for the Director's consideration in selecting the applicants eligible for a Cultivation Center registration.

The Director of the Department of Health considered the consensus comments provided from the Medical Marijuana Application Review Panel, including the analysis of the comments from the Area Neighborhood Commissioners (ANCs) pertaining to each applicant. The Director found the panel's rationale sound and consistent with the criteria set forth in the rulemaking. Further, the Director determined that the scores assigned to each element of the application were appropriately supported by the rationale set forth in the comments provided by the panel. The Director also considered and gave great weight to the ANC comments with respect to the proposed location of each facility. The Director found that the points presented with regard to overconcentration of cultivation centers in an affected neighborhood were compelling and this factor weighed heavily when making the final determinations as to eligibility.

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The Director, in appointing this panel, reviewing the consensus comments, and considering the ANC comments with respect to the proposed location of each facility, did his due diligence in finding that the following applicants who have been found eligible for registration have the best security plans, the best staffing plans, the best cultivation plans, and the best business and financial plans and meet all the criteria defined in the program regulations. He is confident that these applicants are capable of ensuring patient and public safety. At all times, the selection process was a transparent and secure process to come to this important decision. To that end, the Director has approved the following applicants as eligible for a cultivation center registration, pending his determination that the applicants have complied with the requirements of § 5400.1, and the applicants obtaining all required approvals and assessments, including completing required criminal background checks.

Abatin Wellness Center I

Holistic Remedies (1)

Montana Apothecary dba
Alternative Solutions

Phyto Management, LLC

District Growers (1)

Venture Forth dba Center City

It is noted that these applicants must meet all regulatory requirements prior to receiving a registration from the Department of Health to operate a Medical Marijuana Cultivation Center.

In considering the ANC comments, the Director found that the comments made with regard to overconcentration of Cultivation Centers in the affected ward were compelling. To that end, the Director did not choose the following applicants: Abatin Wellness Center II, District Growers II, and Organic Wellness (1).

*Due to department reorganization it is now known as Department of General Services, Protective Services Police Department